

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 EB-11 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

HEW-08 EUR-25 DRC-01 /192 W
----- 101021

R 150441Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2342

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0267

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM AMBASSADOR
GREEN ON AUSTRALIAN FLOOD VICTIMS

REF: CANBERRA 0195

EA/ANP: PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR GREEN

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS TRANSMISSION OF CABLE ALONG LINES GIVEN BELOW FROM AMBASSADOR GREEN TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ABOUT AUSTRALIAN VICTIMS OF CURRENT FLOOD DISASTER IN FOUR AUSTRALIAN STATES. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO ASSIST FLOOD VICTIMS EITHER BY GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, WOULD CONSIDER DONATION OF U.S. \$25,000 TO APPROPRIATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION, IF AND WHEN APPEAL IS MADE FOR FUNDS. IT SEEMS TO US UNLIKELY THAT AUSTRALIAN OR STATE GOVERNMENTS WILL MAKE SUCH APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE SINCE THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN PAST.

2. TEXT OF PROPOSED CABLE MIGHT READ:

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"I HAVE HEARD WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT

THE FLOOD DAMAGE IN QUEENSLAND, NEW
SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO ASSESS THE
FINAL RESULTS OF THE FLOOD, I UNDERSTAND THAT
AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS IN THE AREAS
CONCERNED HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.
IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MEASURES THAT SO FEW
HUMAN LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST AS A
CONSEQUENCE OF THE FLOOD.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF THE
U. S. GOVERNMENT, AND ON MY OWN
BEHALF, SYMPATHETIC CONCERN WITH THE PLIGHT
OF THE VICTIMS OF THE FLOOD."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM CONTACTS IN DFA
THAT AS OF JANUARY 14, NO EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ON THE
PART OF OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN
CANBERRA. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT PRIME MINISTER
TRUDEAU WILL EXPRESS CANADIAN CONCERN TO DEFENSE MINISTER
BARNARD DURING LATTER'S CURRENT VISIT TO OTTAWA. WE
EXPECT THAT AMBASSADOR'S CABLE WOULD, THEREFORE, BE AMONG
THE FIRST TO BE RECEIVED BY GOA. END COMMENT.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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